

Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-10

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UNCLAS PARIS 29104

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/L&LP; APHIS/MULHERN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EC, ECON, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH COMPLAINT ON CASEIN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

1. AGMIN OFFICIALS REQUESTED WE ATTEND MEETING NOVEMBER 7 WITH AUBERGER, REVEL, MAZIA AND TRUNEL TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF US RESTRICTIONS ON CASEIN IMPORTS. REVEL SAID THAT PUBLICATION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1975 REGULATIONS IN FEDERAL REGISTER (PAGE 44123) CAME AS SURPRISE SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD NEW REGULATIONS WOULD FIRST BE DISCUSSED WITH AFFECTED PARTIES. CONTINUING, HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST FRENCH CASEIN LARGELY PRODUCED THROUGH ACID METHOD WAS DESTINED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND INDUSTRIAL USE IN US, AND NOT FOR ANIMAL FEED USE, THUS IT WAS NOT PROHIBITED ENTRY. HOWEVER, LARGEST IMPORTER, KRAFT, WHICH ACCORDING TO FRENCH CONTROLS OVER HALF OF MARKET, COMPLETELY SWITCHED BUYING FROM FRANCE TO OTHER SOURCES. (FRENCH SHOWED US ADVERTISEMENT IN AUGUST 1975, IN ADVANCE OF FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATION, "FOOD PROCESSING" PUBLICATION WHICH INVITED BUYERS TO "JOIN THE CLUB" AND BUY FROM FOOT-AND-MOUTH FREE NEW ZEALAND. REASON, ACCORDING TO FRENCH, WAS THAT IT WAS TOO COMPLICATED FOR KRAFT TO DIFFERENTIATE WAREHOUSING OF CASEIN AS BETWEEN HUMAN AND INDUSTRIAL USE ON ONE HAND AND ANIMAL USE ON THE OTHER AND COMPANY COULD NOT GUARANTEE

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THAT CASEIN IMPORTED FROM FRANCE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT

FIND WAY INTO ANIMAL USE. IF SITUATION CONTINUES, FRENCH FEAR THEY WILL LOSE ENTIRE MARKET (ESTIMATED AT 20 TO 25 MILLION DOLLARS) TO NEW ZEALAND, LARGELY BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS.

2. FRENCH ASKED US TO TRANSMIT THIS INFORMATION TO USG AND TO REQUEST THAT: (1) CASEIN PRODUCED THROUGH ACID METHOD BE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FROM ABOVE-CITED REGULATION SINCE THIS METHOD REPORTEDLY DESTROYS FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE VIRUS; AND (2) THAT SYSTEM OF WAREHOUSING AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING THERETO BE REVIEWED SO AS NOT TO WORK UNDUE HARDSHIP ON FRENCH EXPORTS.

3. THESE POINTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY DR. MATHIEU, DIRECTOR OF FRENCH VETERINARY SERVICES, AT HIS NOVEMBER 10 MEETINGS AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
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